

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 16-20 are pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 16-17 have been amended to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention, and claims 18-20 have been amended as to form. Claims 21-25 have been added. Claims 16 and 21 are independent. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed March 16, 2004, and July 29, 2004.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication of the acceptability of the drawings filed on March 16, 2004.

Claims 16-24 are presented to the Examiner for further or initial prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,319,099 to Tanoue et al. ("the Tanoue et al. reference"), and rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tanoue et al. reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,498,196 to Karlsrud et al. ("the Karlsrud et al. reference").

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection of Claims 16-18

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Tanoue et al. reference. Independent claim 16 has been amended to more clearly recite the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that amended

claim 16 defines the present invention over the Tanoue et al. reference for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite that providing a pressure to the plurality of chemical solution supply sources includes injecting gas into the plurality of chemical solution supply sources. This injection replaces the pump of the conventional art. The advantages of this method are set forth, for example, in paragraph [0032] of the original specification.

In contrast to the present invention, and similar to the conventional art discussed in the original specification, the Tanoue et al. reference uses a pump to supply the chemical solution. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Tanoue et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as now recited in claim 16.

The remaining rejected claims depend from claim 16 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Further, claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the chemical solutions mixed are different. The mixing of the chemical solutions just before supplying the chemical solutions to the chemical solution injection part suppresses a settling phenomenon or a coagulation phenomenon that arises with the passage of time. The Examiner asserted that the Tanoue et al. reference teaches mixing measured chemical solutions just before supplying them. However, the Tanoue et al. reference fails to disclose that the chemicals in the bottles 1 and 2 are different or that the chemical in bottle 1 is mixed with the chemical in bottle 2. Instead, in the Tanoue et al. reference, the slurry bottles 1, 2 is stirred up by spraying the slurry through the spray nozzles 13b and 13d into the bottles 1, 2. *The Tanoue et al. reference, col. 8, lines 14-19.* Thus, the chemicals are mixed in their respective bottles. Finally, even if the chemicals in the bottles 1, 2

are different, any mixing thereof as shown in Fig. 1 of the Tanoue et al. reference would be in the delivery pipe 3e, not just before supplying the chemical solutions to the chemical injection part, as recited in claim 17. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is further allowable over the Tanoue et al. reference.

C. Asserted Obviousness Rejection of Claims 19-20

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Tanoue et al. reference in view of the Karlsrud et al. reference. Claims 19-20 depend indirectly from claim 16, and are similarly believed to be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. It is respectfully submitted that the Karlsrud et al. reference fails to provide the teachings noted above as missing from the Tanoue et al. reference. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

D. New Claims 21-24

Independent claim 21 has been added to recite a method directed supply of a single chemical solution, in contrast to the plurality of chemical solutions recited in claim 16. Claim 21 similarly recites the injection gas limitation discussed above, and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 16 is believed to be allowable. The remaining claims 22-24 depend from claim 21, and are similarly believed to be allowable.

E. Conclusion

The remaining cited references were not relied upon by the Examiner to reject the claims. Therefore, no comments concerning these references are believed to be necessary at this time.

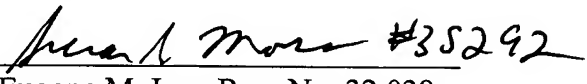
Since the cited prior art references neither anticipate nor render obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-24 are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.